most modern research in the context of the provision regarding Agricultural research as envisaged in GATT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof, and

(d) the action taken to ensure that the most modern form of Agricultural research is done in our country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BAL RAM JAKHAR) : (a) No specific review has been made about the capability of Agricultural Universities with respect to their research activities in the context of GATT.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Research relevance and modernisation is an inbuilt activity of Council's support programmes to the Agricultural Universities.

Cadre review of junior engineers in C.P.W.D.

*153. SHRI HIPHEI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Junior Engineers of Central Public Works Department (C.P.W.D.) have been demanding cadre review in terms of an agreement signed between Government and C.P.W.D. Junior Engineer's Association in 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that promotional avenues of these Junior Engineers are affected for lack of cadre review :

(d) whether Government have taken any action in terms of agreement as in part (a) above; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A consensus was reached with the CPWD Junior Engineers Association and the Sectional Officers (Horticulture) Association on 20-8-1987 which brought to an end the indefinite strike resorted to from 14-7-1987 by these Associations in furtherence of their various demands, which included Cadre Review also. It was agreed that Cadre Review of Junior Engineers would be initiated by appointing a Committee of Officers in the month of November, 1987,

(c) No, Sir. Orders were issued in March, 1991 under which :—

(i) Junior Engineers, after completion of 5 years in the scale of pay of Rs. 1400–2300, will be placed in the scale of pay of Rs. 1640–2900, subject to rejection of unfit; and

(ii) Junior Engineers, who could not be promoted to the post of Assistant Engineer in the scale of Rs. 2000–3500 due to non-availability of vacancies, will be allowed this scale, on personal basis, after completion of 15 years of service as Junior Engineer, subject to rejection of unfit.

(d) and (e) In pursuance of the consensus, the following actions have been taken in connection with the Cadre Review :—

(i) A Working Group was appointed by the CPWD on 23-8-87, which submitted its recommendations in August, 1988;

(ii) A Cadre Review Committee was constituted in September, 1988 to consider the recommendations of the Working Group which has since submitted its report;

(iii) The recommendations of the Cadre Review Committee have been examined by the Ministry of Urban Development and its recommendations submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

Damage to Agricultural Crops in Vidarbha Region

*154. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the final estimates of total damage caused to agricultural crops by heavy rains and floods, in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra during July-August, 1994;

(b) how much aid the Government of Maharashtra sought from the Central Government;

(c) how much aid the Central Government provided to the Government of Maharashtra; and

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that minimum damage is caused to agricultural during such calamities in future ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) According to reports received from the Government of Maharashtra, crops in an area of 2.20 lakh ha. were affected in the Vidarbha region due to floods during the south-west Monsoon, 1994.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra had submitted two Memoranda seeking Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 945.00 crores for relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by floods in the State. Under the existing scheme, the State Government undertakes relief and rehabilitation measures using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The entire Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 33.00 crores for the year 1994-95 was released in advance during 1993-94.

(d) The subject of flood control is a State subject. The State Government has implemented 18 major, 48 medium and 517 minor irrigation projects which also contribute to checking flood damage to Agriculture and other sectors.

Negative aspects of the rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992

*155. DR. BAPU KALDATE

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the non-Governmental organisations have, in a memorandum submitted to Government, pointed out negative aspects of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 pleading the suspension of the implementation of the Act being contrary to the interests of the handicapped;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points raised in the Memorandum submitted by the NGOs are as follows :

(i) *Article 2 of the RCI Act* : Categories of the disabilities are not adequately covered.

(ii) *Article* 3(3) : The composition of the Council needs change in order to include established professionals in the field as well as to give adequate representation to the NGOs.

(iii) *Article* 11 *and* 18 : Established and reputed universities should be left out of the purview of the RCI Act to encourage academic higher education in rehabilitation.

(iv) *Article* 13 : Prescribing rehabilitation qualifications for professionals should be repealed to avoid centralisation and bureaucratisation.

(c) The issues were earlier considered in detail with the representatives of the NGOs. At this stage, any amendment of the Act is not under consideration. However, Government is open to consider the provisions of the Act, if in its implementation, difficulties arise without affecting the qaulity of Rehabilitation Services for welfare of the handicapped.

Status of Women in South Asia

*156 SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Women status low in South Asia" which appeared in the Times of India dated 31st August, 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Status of women in South Asia

The news item refers to a World Bank publication entitled "A New Agenda for Women's Health and Nutrition", published in August, 1994. This publication is a general study focussing on the health and nutrition related deprevations faced by women and girl children in developing countries including India. It suggests that gender sensitive policies should be adopted and women's health services strengthened, along with efforts to redress